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Remarks:

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, 10-15, 24-28 and 30 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 5540864 to Michael (hereinafter simply "Michael"):

The applicant's cancellation of the objected to claims is believed to render the current grounds of rejection as moot.

Regarding the rejection of claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 5540864 to Michael, in view of US 5335373 to Dangman (hereinafter simply "Dangman"), further in view of US 5977183 to Scepanski (hereinafter simply Scepanski):

The applicant's cancellation of the objected to claims is believed to render the current grounds of rejection as moot.

Regarding the rejection of 16-20, 21 under 35 USC 103(a) in view of US 5540864 to Michael, further in view of US 4666940 to Bischof (hereinafter simply Bischof):

The applicant's cancellation of the objected to claims is believed to render the current grounds of rejection as moot.

Should the Examiner in charge of this application believe that telephonic communication with the undersigned would meaningfully advance the prosecution of this application, they are invited to call the undersigned at their earliest convenience.

The early issuance of a *Notice of Allowability* is solicited.

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PETITION FOR A ONE-MONTH EXTENSION OF TIME

The applicants respectfully petition for a one-month extension of time in order to permit for the timely entry of this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263 with respect to this petition.

CONDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION FOR FEES

Should any further fee be required by the Commissioner in order to permit the timely entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully Submitted;



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Date:

CERTIFICATION OF TELEFAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this paper is being telefax transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office to telefax number: 571-272-8300 on the date shown below:


Andrew N. Parfomak


Date

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